

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An auto-routing electronic mail (e-mail) system, comprising:
a computer network;
a server communicating over said computer network and including an undelivered data storage; and
a sender computer communicating over said computer network;
wherein said electronic mail system ~~compares~~ examines a received e-mail message to ~~previous e-mail messages sent from said sender computer and if a match occurs said e-mail system determines that said received e-mail message is a bounced e-mail message to~~ determine whether a previous e-mail message was not received by an intended recipient of the previous e-mail message, and wherein said e-mail system posts at least a portion of said ~~bounced previous~~ e-mail message to said undelivered data storage in said server and sends a notification e-mail message to ~~an the intended recipient of said bounced e-mail message, notifying said intended recipient of the existence of said bounced e-mail message and~~ notifying the intended recipient of the existence of the previous e-mail message, wherein the notification e-mail message includes instructions instructing said intended recipient as to how to retrieve said least a portion of said previous ~~bounced~~ e-mail message.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said computer network further comprises a plurality of inter-connected computer networks.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said notification e-mail includes a server retrieval address comprising a hypertext markup language (HTML) address

link identifying the location of said least a portion of said previous ~~bounced~~ e-mail message in said undelivered data storage.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said notification e-mail includes a server retrieval address comprising a uniform resource locator (URL) address identifying the location of said least a portion of said previous ~~bounced~~ e-mail message in said undelivered data storage.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, said sender computer further comprising:
a sent message storage storing previously sent e-mail messages;
a received message storage storing received e-mail messages;
a server retrieval address storage storing a server retrieval address of at least a portion of a ~~bounced~~ sent e-mail message posted to said server; and
a comparison rule that governs how a bounce is detected;
wherein said sender computer compares a received message to said previously sent e-mail messages according to said comparison rule, determines whether said ~~received~~ previously sent message was bounced, posts said at least a portion of said ~~bounced~~ previously sent e-mail message to said server, and sends said notification e-mail message to said intended recipient.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein said sender computer receives a server retrieval address from said server after said at least a portion of said ~~bounced~~ previously sent e-mail message is posted to said server, with said server retrieval address being included in said notification e-mail message.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, said server further comprising:
a sent message storage storing previously sent e-mail messages;
a received message storage storing received e-mail messages; and
a comparison rule that governs how a bounce is detected;

wherein said server compares a received message to said previously sent messages according to said comparison rule, determines whether ~~said received message one of said~~ previously sent messages was bounced, and sends said notification e-mail message to said intended recipient.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said server transmits a server retrieval address to said intended recipient after a message bounce is detected, with said server retrieval address being included in said notification e-mail message.

9. (Currently Amended) An auto-routing method for an electronic mail (e-mail) system, comprising the steps of:

sending a first e-mail message to an intended recipient, wherein the first e-mail message includes one or more attachments;

receiving a second e-mail message after sending the first e-mail message;

determining if ~~a received~~ the size of the first e-mail message is a bounced e-mail message exceeds a size limit, wherein the determination is based, at least in part, on information included in the second e-mail message;

posting at least a portion of said ~~bounced first~~ e-mail message to a server accessible to ~~an the~~ intended recipient of said bounced e-mail message in response to a determination that the size of the first e-mail message exceeds a size limit; and

notifying said intended recipient of an availability of said at least a portion of said ~~bounced first~~ e-mail message on said server;

wherein said intended recipient accesses said server in order to obtain said at least a portion of said ~~bounced first~~ e-mail message.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said server performs the determining and notifying steps.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, ~~further comprising the preliminary steps of:~~

~~said sender computer transmitting a generated e-mail message to said data server;~~
and
~~said data server relaying said generated e-mail message to said intended recipient;~~
~~wherein said server performs the determining and notifying steps~~wherein said at least
a portion of said first e-mail message consists of said one or more attachments.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein a sender computer performs the determining and notifying steps.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, the notifying step further comprising sending a notification e-mail message to said intended recipient.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, the notifying step further comprising embedding an HTML address link in a notification e-mail message.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9, the notifying step further comprising embedding a URL address in a notification e-mail message.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9, the determining step further comprising the steps of:

embedding a unique identifier in each outgoing e-mail message;
comparing a previously sent message unique identifier to a received message unique identifier; and
determining that said previously sent message was bounced if a match is found.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, the determining step further comprising the steps of:

comparing at least a portion of said ~~previously sent~~ first e-mail message to a
~~corresponding portion of a received~~ said second e-mail message; and

determining that said ~~previously first sent~~ message was bounced if ~~a match is found~~ said portions match.

18. Cancelled.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, the determining step further comprising the steps of:

comparing one or more predetermined data fields in said ~~previously sent~~ first e-mail message to one or more ~~corresponding~~ data fields in ~~a received~~ said second e-mail message; and

determining that said previously sent message was bounced if a match is found.

20. (New) An auto-routing system for an electronic mail (e-mail) system, comprising:

computer code means for enabling a sender to transmit a first e-mail message to a recipient's e-mail account, wherein a file is attached to the first e-mail message;

computer code means for storing the file in a data storage coupled to a server;

computer code means for receiving a message from an e-mail server associated with the recipient's e-mail account;

computer code means for determining whether the message indicates that the size of the first e-mail message exceeds a size limit;

computer code means for automatically transmitting a second e-mail message to the recipient's e-mail account in response to determining that the first e-mail message exceeds the size limit, wherein the second e-mail message includes an identifier identifying the file and the server coupled to the data storage.

21. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the second e-mail message includes a hyperlink to the file.